## COLORADO MEDICAID WILL ENROLL MORE ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENT CHILDREN FROM WAITLIST

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – February 19, 2013 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) announced today that there is sufficient funding to enroll additional Adults without Dependent Children (AwDC) from the program waitlist. The AwDC program launched last year and was initially limited to 10,000 people; more than 11,000 are currently on a waitlist. The AwDC program is authorized by HB 09-1293 and funded by a hospital provider fee and matching federal funds, and uses no general funds.

"We are covering more low-income Coloradans while containing costs in our Medicaid program," said Susan E. Birch, executive director. "By enrolling additional low-income adults, more Coloradans will gain access to a primary care medical provider rather than relying on the emergency room as the only option for care. As we move towards expanding Medicaid coverage in 2014, we will continue to focus on improving value in our Medicaid program."

The Department plans to enroll 3,000 individuals from the AwDC program waitlist beginning in April and enroll 1,250 individuals each subsequent month through September 2013 as long as funding allows. The phased monthly increase in enrollment will allow the Department to continue to evaluate program expenses to ensure costs do not exceed provider fee funds. Individuals will be selected from the waitlist through the same monthly randomized member selection process that is currently used to fill open slots. Individuals selected from the waitlist will receive a notification letter from Medicaid.

The AwDC program is designed for adults aged 19 to 64 who are *not* eligible for other Medicaid programs or Medicare and whose income is no more than 10% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is about \$90 per month for a single adult. The Department will not be increasing the income limit until January 2014 when Medicaid is expanded to cover 133% of FPL.

Clients in the AwDC program receive the regular Medicaid benefit package. AwDC clients are enrolled in the <u>Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC)</u>. The ACC is a program which coordinates clients' care with dual goals of improving outcomes and containing costs.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.